

Appl. No. 09/938,399
Amdt. dated September 15, 2004
Reply to Office Action of June 17, 2004

PATENT

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action mailed on June 17, 2004.

Prior to this Amendment, claims 1-3, 5-15, and 24-33 were pending and subject to examination. In this Amendment, claims 1-3, 5-10, 24-26, and 28 are canceled. Claims 11, 27, 29, 31, 32, and 33 are amended so that claims 11-15, 27, 29-33 are pending and subject to examination.

In the Office Action, claims 1-3, 5-15, 24, 25, 27, 30, and 33 are rejected over various prior art references. The Examiner also states that claims 26, 28, 29, 31, and 32 are objected to and would be allowable if rewritten into independent form. The Examiner is sincerely and earnestly thanked for the indication of allowable subject matter.

While Applicants traverse the rejections of record, Applicants have amended the claims so that they are in allowable form. Specifically, independent claim 11 is amended to incorporate the limitation in dependent claim 26, and claim 26 is canceled. Since amended independent claim 11 is the same as previously submitted dependent claim 26, independent claim 11 and any claims dependent thereon should be allowable. Dependent claim 28 is canceled and the limitation therein is included in amended independent claim 27. Accordingly, independent claim 27 and dependents thereon should be allowable. Claims 29, 31, and 32 have been amended so that they are in independent form. Accordingly, these claims and any claims dependent thereon should be allowable. Since the remaining claims have been canceled and all other claims depend from independent claims 11, 27, 29, 31, and 32, all claims in this application should be in condition for allowance.

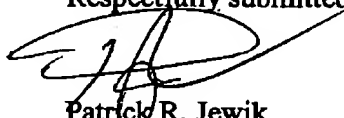
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CONCLUSION

Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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